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FROM: Tony Beeton
XDS
7 December 1994

DESK IMMEDIATE

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

1. PS ~~Beeton~~ *re*
2. 760/94

DB113/94
RECEIVED - 8 DEC 1994

cc: PS/Secretary of State (L&B) - B
PS/Michael Ancram (L&B) - B
PS/PUS (L&B) - B
PS/Mr Fell - B
Mr Legge - B
Mr Thomas - B
Mr Brooke - B
Mr Leach - B
Mr Watkins - B
Mr Williams - B
Mr Wood (L&B) - B
Mr Currie - B
Mr Brooker - B
Mr Maccabe - B
Mr Stephens - B
Mr Campton - B

UNDER/ SEC 353/12
- 7 DEC 1994
CENT SEC

lm 205 8/12

TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS WITH SINN FEIN

I had a further three telephone conversations with Sinn Fein yesterday. Siobhan O'Hanlon (I took an unforced opportunity during her call to ask for her surname) telephoned me to confirm that Sinn Fein would like to take up the opportunity we had discussed the day before to look at the accommodation in Parliament Buildings and discuss some of the practicalities for their delegation's arrival on site. She said that they would like to come with three people - a driver, herself, and Gerry O'Hara who would in particular be interested in facilities for the press. I told her that we would be prepared to make suitable arrangements and that I would call her back later in the day to confirm details.

2. After the call I agreed with Robert Campton that he would conduct the Sinn Fein representatives around Parliament Buildings, confining himself strictly to issues of accommodation and other

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practicalities and referring them to me on any other questions. Andy Wood also agreed to be present to deal with queries relating to the press.

3. Ms O'Hanlon called me back about an hour and a half after the first call to ask whether she could confirm the arrangements with me. I explained that I was in a meeting but that I had agreed that our administrator, Robert Campton, would meet them the following day at 11.00 am as proposed and that I would call her back in about 15 minutes to put her directly in touch with Mr Campton. I took the opportunity to mention another issue which had been raised during Mr Thomas's meeting in Parliament Buildings that afternoon. I said that I was aware how contentious it might be but the meeting room in Parliament Buildings was a non-smoking space. We would not enforce that bar in their own delegation room - that would be a matter for them - but we should like to know whether there was any strong preference by any members of their delegation for smoking during the meeting. She said that since they had not yet finalised their delegation she could not say what their preferences might be, but they would pass on the information later.

4. I telephoned Sinn Fein as I had undertaken and passed Siobhan O'Hanlon over to Robert Campton who agreed with her the details for the following day.

5. My impression throughout these conversations was again that Sinn Fein were determined to approach Friday's meeting seriously and were anxious to plan the encounter carefully.

SIGNED

TONY BEETON
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